

shaped our country and how it has changed over the years. Each city is further tasked with taking the exhibits from the Smithsonian and incorporating them into the local culture. Through the creativity of Mrs. Fabianke and her dedicated volunteers, Red Bay integrated the exhibit with its library, museum, churches, local industries, and other aspects of the town's community life.

Red Bay, a town of just over 3,000 residents, had a total of 6,692 visitors to the exhibit, coming from 41 States and four foreign countries. This number broke all previously held records listed by the Alabama Humanities Foundation for the number of people attending a traveling Smithsonian exhibit. Mrs. Fabianke's skilled leadership and guidance drove the momentum of this project and were influential in the success of the event.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mrs. Rosalyn Fabianke for her role as the project director of this internationally viewed exhibit and for her enduring impact on her community and the great State of Alabama. I join her family, friends and colleagues in congratulating her on a job well done.

#### MARKING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA AND THE PLIGHT OF SYRIA'S REFUGEES

##### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues from the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to mark a tragic milestone in the conflict in Syria. It has now been three years that the nation of Syria has been engulfed in a war that has only grown more violent over time and has fomented increasing stability throughout the region. The men, women, and children of Syria have endured unspeakable violence and devastating attacks that have ruined their homes and neighborhoods.

The scale of displacement in Syria has been called the worst refugee crisis in recent history. Indeed, approximately one-third of the entire population has been forced to flee their homes. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, over 2.5 Syrians have fled the country since March 2011, while another 6.5 million Syrians have been internally displaced. Syria has gone from being one of the largest refugee-hosting nations to surpassing Afghanistan as the largest source of refugees in the world today.

Syria's neighbors have been profoundly affected by the conflict, both by the spillover of violence and the massive influx of refugees that have sought, and continue to seek, safety abroad. Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq have already taken in about 2.1 million refugees. One million refugees are in Lebanon. As a result, Lebanon's total population has increased by one-fifth. That would be like adding an additional 60 million people to the U.S. population all at once. Turkey has 634,900 refugees and Jordan is sheltering 584,000 Syrians, with 100,000 in the Zaatari refugee camp alone. Even Iraq, which once saw a vast flow of refugees into Syria, is now seeing a significant reverse flow.

These nations, with assistance from the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and the international community are doing all they can. However, resources are limited and the refugee camps are overcrowded. Additionally, while the refugees may have found protection from the war, many Syrian women and girls are instead encountering alarming levels of sexual and domestic violence. This is no way for the Syrian people to live.

The only solution is for the global community to come together to support a final lasting political resolution that will bring peace and stability and allow these refugees to come home and rebuild their country. I join with my fellow Members to call for renewed efforts to help support the refugees and their host nations, and to finally end this reprehensible conflict once and for all.

#### RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

##### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

This month, I will present awards to the following teachers chosen by their school district for special recognition:

Ian Ackroyd from Venice Middle School in Venice for his accomplishments as a Band Director;

Gina Barresi from Sarasota High School in Sarasota, for her accomplishments as an English and Reading teacher;

Dana Van Bussum from Southeast High School in Bradenton for her accomplishments as a Language Arts teacher;

Lisa Figueroa from Taylor Ranch Elementary School in Venice for her accomplishments as a Science teacher;

Dudley Leigh from Lee Middle School in Bradenton for his accomplishments as an Art teacher; and

Jennifer Willis from Oneco Elementary School in Oneco for her accomplishments as a First Grade teacher.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

#### 315TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF BILOXI

##### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Biloxi, Mississippi on the occasion of its 315th birthday.

In 1699, the first permanent settlement in French Louisiana was founded at Fort Maurepas and referred to as Old Biloxi. Following the Seven Years War, Great Britain took control of the city, ruling until 1779, before the Spanish took over for the next nine years. The city came under the control of the United States in 1811 as part of the Mississippi Territory, and finally under the State of Mississippi in 1817.

Over the last 315 years, Biloxi has grown and prospered. It quickly became a tourist destination, famous for the Biloxi lighthouse that is a beacon of the Gulf Coast. The addition of Keesler Air Force Base during World War II was the beginning of Biloxi as a true military town, a tradition that continues to this day.

Most importantly, Biloxi is a community in every sense of the word. Despite being ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and again by the BP oil spill in 2010, Biloxi came together as a community and is stronger than ever.

Today, Biloxi is well-known for its beautiful beaches, world-class seafood, thriving gaming industry, and wonderful people. I am proud to call the City of Biloxi my home.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the City of Biloxi and its citizens for its 315 years of community and citizenship. May God continue to bless it for many years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 134 for H.R. 4015, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN N. DEOUDÉS

##### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2014*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of the grandfather of one of my employees, John Nicholas Deoudes, who passed away on February 12, 2014 at the age of 90.

Born Ioannis Nickolas Deoudes in the village of Apeiranthos on the Greek island of Naxos, Mr. Deoudes took the name John after coming to the United States as a child. He graduated from Roosevelt High School of Washington, DC in 1942, becoming a U.S. citizen shortly thereafter and serving in the Army during World War II. Mr. Deoudes then operated a vending machine business in the Washington, DC area for nearly seven decades.

Mr. Deoudes served on the national board of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and a member of the American Legion where he was a past president of his local chapter. He was a founding member